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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method in a data processing system for customizing  
2 a graphical user interface of an application on a data  
3 processing system, the method comprising:

4 determining a first customization format;  
5 determining a second customization format; and  
6 initiating customization of the graphical user  
7 interface by automatically switching between the first  
8 customization format and the second customization format.

1 2. The method in claim 1, wherein the first  
2 customization format is a macro-based customization  
3 format.

1 3. The method in claim 1, wherein the second  
2 customization format is a screen by screen customization  
3 format.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first  
2 customization format and the second customization format  
3 maintains continuous interaction with the application.

1 5. The method in claim 1, wherein customization of the  
2 graphical user interface is initiated by the first  
3 customization format and further comprising:  
4 transferring control of the customization of the  
5 graphical user interface to the first customization  
6 format.

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1       6.    The method of claim 2, wherein initiating  
2       customization of the graphical user interface is sent to  
3       a predefined markup.

1       7.    The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2       responsive to completion of customization of the  
3       graphical user interface, displaying the graphical user  
4       interface based on the customization.

1       8.    The method on claim 1, wherein if a first format and  
2       a second format cannot be determined, initiating  
3       customization of the graphical user interface by  
4       automatically switching to a default customization  
5       format.

1       9.    A method in a data processing system for customizing  
2       a graphical user interface of a host application,  
3       comprising a plurality of screens, on a data processing  
4       system, the method comprising:

5       retrieving a customization format from a plurality  
6       of customization formats;

7       determining if the retrieved customization format  
8       recognizes a host application screen among the plurality  
9       of host application screens; and

10       responsive to the retrieved macro recognizing the  
11       host application screen, executing the retrieved macro to  
12       customize the graphical user interface.

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1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the customization  
2 format is at least one of a macro-based customization  
3 format and a screen by screen customization format.

1 11. The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
2 responsive to the retrieved customization format not  
3 recognizing the host application screen, exiting the  
4 retrieved customization format;  
5 matching the retrieved customization format to  
6 customization format entry points; and  
7 responsive to the retrieved customization format  
8 matching a customization entry point, reentering the  
9 retrieved customization format.

1 12. The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
2 determining whether the retrieved customization  
3 format execution is complete; and  
4 responsive to completion of the execution of the  
5 retrieved customization format, requesting another  
6 customization format.

1 13. The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
2 detecting errors within the retrieved customization  
3 format;  
4 determining if an error handling logic exists within  
5 the data processing system; and  
6 responsive to error handling logic existing within  
7 the data processing system, activating the error handling  
8 logic.

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1 14. A method in a data processing system for customizing  
2 a graphical user interface of a host application on a  
3 data processing system, the method comprising:

4 establishing a plurality of customization format  
5 entry points;

6 matching a current screen within the host  
7 application to a first customization format entry point  
8 from the plurality of customization entry points; and

9 responsive to matching a current screen within the  
10 host application to a first customization format entry  
11 point from the plurality of customization entry points,  
12 executing the first customization format based on the  
13 matching.

1 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

2 responsive to not matching a current screen within  
3 the host application to a first customization format  
4 entry point from the plurality of customization entry  
5 points, processing the current screen based on user  
6 customization input.

1 16. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

2 responsive to not matching a current screen within  
3 the host application to a first customization format  
4 entry point from the plurality of customization entry  
5 points, processing the current screen based on default  
6 criteria.

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1 17. A system in a data processing system for customizing  
2 a graphical user interface of an application on a data  
3 processing system, comprising:

4 determining means for determining a first  
5 customization format;

6 determining means for determining a second  
7 customization format; and

8 initiating means for initiating customization of the  
9 graphical user interface by automatically switching  
10 between the first customization format and the second  
11 customization format.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the first  
2 customization format is a macro-based customization  
3 format.

1 19. The system of claim 17, wherein the second  
2 customization format is a screen by screen customization  
3 format.

1 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the first  
2 customization format and the second customization format  
3 maintains continuous interaction with the application.

1 21. The system of claim 17, wherein customization of the  
2 graphical user interface is initiated by the first  
3 customization format and further comprising:

4 transferring means for transferring control of the  
5 customization of the graphical user interface to the  
6 first customization format.

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22. The system of claim 18, wherein initiating customization of the graphical user interface is sent to a predefined markup.

23. The system of claim 17, further comprising:  
displaying means, responsive to completion of customization of the graphical user interface, for displaying the graphical user interface based on the customization.

24. The system of claim 17, wherein if a first format and a second format cannot be determined, initiating customization of the graphical user interface by automatically switching to a default customization format.

25. A system in a data processing system for customizing a graphical user interface of a host application, comprising a plurality of screens, on a data processing system, comprising:

retrieving means for retrieving a customization format from a plurality of customization formats;  
determining means for determining if the retrieved customization format recognizes a host application screen among the plurality of host application screens; and  
executing means, responsive to the retrieved macro recognizing the host application screen, for executing the retrieved macro to customize the graphical user interface.

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1 26. The system of claim 25, wherein the customization  
2 format is at least one of a macro-based customization  
3 format and a screen by screen customization format.

1 27. The system of claim 25, further comprising:  
2 exiting means, responsive to the retrieved  
3 customization format not recognizing the host application  
4 screen, for exiting the retrieved customization format;  
5 matching means for matching the retrieved  
6 customization format to customization format entry  
7 points; and  
8 reentering means, responsive to the retrieved  
9 customization format matching a customization entry  
10 point, for reentering the retrieved customization format.

1 28. The system of claim 25, further comprising:  
2 determining means for determining whether the  
3 retrieved customization format execution is complete; and  
4 requesting means, responsive to completion of the  
5 execution of the retrieved customization format, for  
6 requesting another customization format.

1 29. The method of claim 25, further comprising:  
2 detecting means for detecting errors within the  
3 retrieved customization format;  
4 determining means for determining if an error  
5 handling logic exists within the data processing system;  
6 and

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7 activating means, responsive to error handling logic  
8 existing within the data processing system, for  
9 activating the error handling logic.

1 30. A system in a data processing system for customizing  
2 a graphical user interface of a host application on a  
3 data processing system, comprising:

4 establishing means for establishing a plurality of  
5 customization format entry points;

6 matching means for matching a current screen within  
7 the host application to a first customization format  
8 entry point from the plurality of customization entry  
9 points; and

10 executing means, responsive to matching a current  
11 screen within the host application to a first  
12 customization format entry point from the plurality of  
13 customization entry points, for executing the first  
14 customization format based on the matching.

1 31. The system of claim 30, further comprising:

2 processing means, responsive to not matching a  
3 current screen within the host application to a first  
4 customization format entry point from the plurality of  
5 customization entry points, for processing the current  
6 screen based on user customization input.

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1 32. The method of claim 30, further comprising:  
2 processing means, responsive to not matching a  
3 current screen within the host application to a first  
4 customization format entry point from the plurality of  
5 customization entry points, for processing the current  
6 screen based on default criteria.

1 33. A computer program product in a computer-readable  
2 medium for use in a data processing system for  
3 customizing a graphical user interface of an application  
4 on a data processing system, comprising:

5 instructions for determining a first customization  
6 format;

7 instructions for determining a second customization  
8 format; and

9 instructions for initiating customization of the  
10 graphical user interface by automatically switching  
11 between the first customization format and the second  
12 customization format.

1 34. The computer program product of claim 33, wherein  
2 the first customization format is a macro-based  
3 customization format.

1 35. The computer program product of claim 33, wherein  
2 the second customization format is a screen by screen  
3 customization format.

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1 36. The computer program product of claim 33, wherein  
2 customization of the graphical user interface is  
3 initiated by the first customization format and further  
4 comprising:

5 instructions for transferring control of the  
6 customization of the graphical user interface to the  
7 first customization format.

8 37. The computer program product of claim 33, further  
9 comprising:

10 instructions for, responsive to completion of  
11 customization of the graphical user interface, displaying  
12 the graphical user interface based on the customization.

13 38. A computer program product in a computer-readable  
14 medium for use in a data processing system for  
15 customizing a graphical user interface of a host  
16 application, comprising a plurality of screens, on a data  
17 processing system, comprising:

18 instructions for retrieving a customization format  
19 from a plurality of customization formats;

20 instructions for determining if the retrieved  
21 customization format recognizes a host application screen  
22 among the plurality of host application screens; and

23 instructions for, responsive to the retrieved macro  
24 recognizing the host application screen, executing the  
25 retrieved macro to customize the graphical user  
26 interface.

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1 39. The computer program product of claim 38, wherein  
2 the customization format is at least one of a macro-based  
3 customization format and a screen by screen customization  
4 format.

1 40. A computer program product in a computer-readable  
2 medium for customizing a graphical user interface of a  
3 host application on a data processing system, comprising:

4 instructions for establishing a plurality of  
5 customization format entry points;

6 instructions for matching a current screen within  
7 the host application to a first customization format  
8 entry point from the plurality of customization entry  
9 points; and

10 instructions for, responsive to matching a current  
11 screen within the host application to a first  
12 customization format entry point from the plurality of  
13 customization entry points, executing the first  
14 customization format based on the matching.

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